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NEWS

Air Pollution

Study: Chinese Plants Report Data Showing Frequent Breaches of Pollutant Standards

Steel factories and thermal power plants in eastern China that provide real-time pollutant emissions data frequently exceed national standards, according to a study released by a Beijing-based environmental group....

Brownfields

Twelve Manufacturing Communities Eligible For \$1.3 Billion in Federal Funds, EPA Says

Up to 12 manufacturing communities could receive \$1.3 billion in federal funds for economic development, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency's superfund office told a webinar Jan. 15....

Climate Change

FirstEnergy Agrees With Shareholders To Report on Plan for Reducing Emissions

FirstEnergy Corp., one of the largest electric utilities in the U.S., has reached an agreement with shareholders to report on its plans for reducing greenhouse gas

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emissions....

Climate Change

Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.) told reporters Jan. 15 that legislation to limit the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate greenhouse gases from power plants would face "an uphill battle" in the Democrat-controlled...

Drilling

The Environmental Protection Agency is working with states and will continue to do so to prevent or investigate groundwater contamination from shale gas drilling, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy told a prominent environmental advocate....

Drilling

Companies could claim trade secret protection for hazardous chemicals they use in North Carolina fracking activities under draft rules approved by a state panel....

Emergency Response

A chemical spill that left 300,000 people in West Virginia without drinking water is reviving calls for more stringent regulation of thousands of chemical storage sites in the U.S., especially those near water supplies....

Endangered Species

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) is calling on the federal Bureau of Land Management to consider his state's alternative to the BLM's final plan to protect the greater sage grouse on federal lands in northwestern Colorado....

Energy

A Boeing Co. technical analysis suggesting that "green diesel," a renewable fuel now used for surface transportation, also can be used in jet engines has sparked an effort to get regulatory approval for global use of the renewable...

Energy

U.S. Chamber President Donohue Says

Opening new areas for energy exploration and ending the "regulatory assault" on coal are among the 64 recommendations in a wide-ranging blueprint released Jan. 15 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce....

Energy

Final regulatory amendments published Jan. 15 align Canadian energy efficiency standards for light bulbs with those in the U.S., including permitting the sale in Canada of incandescent halogen bulbs....

Energy

The possibility of another State Department public comment period for the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline would create an unnecessary delay, Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.) and two Canadian officials said Jan. 15....

Energy

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing on the West Virginia chemical spill that fouled drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people, Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) told Bloomberg BNA Jan. 15. ...

Energy

Russia's economy will fall short of ambitious 2020 government goals for improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy, although significant progress is still expected, the Ministry of Energy concluded in...

Energy

Unconventional petroleum production is increasing the carbon intensity of gasoline, while ethanol production is becoming more efficient, according to a Jan. 15 study commissioned by the ethanol industry. Corn-based ethanol had 32 percent...

Energy

Global investment in renewable energy fell for a second

consecutive year in 2013, led by Europe's 41 percent cut in support for clean power, according to an annual ranking by Bloomberg New Energy Finance....

Enforcement

Allenco Energy Inc. hasn't operated its oil production facility in South Los Angeles safely or in accordance with federal clean air and water laws, according to federal regulators....

EPA

Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) has requested a full Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing into the management practices at the Environmental Protection Agency that enabled former air official John Beale to defraud the agency...

General Policy

Hong Kong's chief executive said in his second annual policy address that the government will continue with environmental policies announced in 2013, prompting advocacy groups to criticize the speech as a missed opportunity to announce...

Hazardous Waste

The Environmental Protection Agency has released a final rule that authorizes the use of electronic manifests to track hazardous waste shipments under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act....

Mining

A large-scale copper and gold mine operation near Bristol Bay, Alaska, poses significant near- and long-term risks to the region, an Environmental Protection Agency assessment released Jan. 15 found....

Mining

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have named a 15-member advisory panel to assist them as they consider regulation of silica sand mining in the state. The panel, made up of citizens and...

Oil Spills

The cleanup of the North Dakota oil spill that was discovered in late September but not announced by the state until two weeks later is likely to take another two years to clean up, according to the chief of the state's environmental health...

Pipeline Safety

The liquid pipeline industry plans to focus on improving inspection technology and response capacities in 2014, according to a document released by the American Petroleum Institute and the Association of Oil Pipelines...

Regulatory Policy

Randall Stephenson, chairman of the Business Roundtable, said the business group will be steadily quantifying the effects of any new regulations....

Regulatory Policy

Two leaders of the National Governors Association praised state roles in energy development and regulation Jan. 15 and said federal policies should complement state efforts....

Solid Waste

Single-use plastic bags would be banned and retailers would charge a 10-cent fee on recyclable paper bags in Sonoma County, Calif., under a proposed ordinance....

Sustainability

The growing disconnection between voluntary and mandatory standards for corporate reporting on the financial impacts of climate change and other sustainability-related issues is creating confusion over the definition of "materiality,"...

Toxic Substances

Industrial users in Canada of four toxic substances—2-nitropropane, 2-nitrotoluene, a form of phenol known as DTBSBP and MAPBAP acetate—are required to report

any significant new uses of the substances to the government under...

Toxic Substances

More than two-thirds of checks on REACH substance registration dossiers have resulted in the issuing of binding decisions to registrants requiring them to correct shortcomings or provide more information, the European Chemicals Agency...

Toxic Substances

Unfinished federal actions on mercury pollution have come under scrutiny by a U.S. senator and a group of water and waste control agencies, with both asking why a facility to store excess mercury hasn't been built and one asking why rules...

Toxic Substances

Excessive perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) exposure appears to be associated with thyroid disease, according to new research...

Toxic Substances

The official English version of Taiwan's revised Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act is now available through the country's Laws & Regulations Database. The revisions were approved by the Legislature in November (227 DEN...

Toxic Substances

Eastman Chemical Co., maker of the chemical that contaminated the Elk River after leaking from a Freedom Industries Inc. facility in Charleston, W.Va., was sued by local businesses and residents who allege the company concealed the chemical's...

Trade

Ventures aimed at bringing academic, private sector and nonprofit institute researchers together, along with a pair of trade agreements currently being negotiated, will help U.S. businesses compete in a global marketplace, Commerce Secretary...

Transportation

Highway or transit projects within existing operational rights of way or that receive limited amounts of federal funding would be excluded from environmental impact reviews under a final rule issued by two federal agencies (79 Fed. Reg. 2,107)....

Water Pollution

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal (R) proposed to provide an additional \$35 million of state funding for the dredging and expansion of the Savannah Harbor and hopes to see actual work begin this year, he said in his annual State of the State address Jan....

OUTLOOK 2014

Canada

The issuance of long-awaited regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions from oil and natural gas operations tops Canada's environmental agenda in 2014....

Chemical Conventions

Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the control and management of hazardous chemicals will focus their efforts in 2014 on implementation of a two-year work program agreed on at a joint Conference of the Parties (COP)...

China

China this year is expected to amend its Environmental Protection Law and implement plans for tackling urban air pollution while making progress on water and soil pollution strategies and formulating environmental tax policies....

Enforcement

The Environmental Protection Agency in 2014 is expected to continue pursuing enforcement actions strategically against major violators of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, while increasingly relying on

new technologies to ensure...

European Union

The European Union will start 2014 by opening a major discussion on its climate and energy policy through 2030....

International Maritime Organization

The International Maritime Organization in 2014 will renew efforts to reduce world shipping's carbon dioxide emissions and improve the energy efficiency of ships, according to a spokeswoman for the London-based United Nations agency....

Major Courts

Whether costs may be considered in an Environmental Protection Agency rule that aims to reduce air pollution that crosses state lines and whether greenhouse gas regulations for vehicles triggered a requirement to regulate stationary sources...

Mexico

Mexico is expected to launch a Special Climate Change Program in 2014 and a fund to help bankroll it, while using a new carbon tax to spur the use of cleaner fossil fuels and renewable sources of energy....

OECD

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development plans to work in 2014 on long-term economic projections related to climate change, sustainable materials management, nanomaterial testing and the economics of biodiversity....

Regulatory Policy

Howard Shelanski, administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, is contemplating changes in 2014 to strengthen agencies' retrospective review of rules and to provide more transparency about the status of rules...

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